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age, who sat as stolidly in his run-

about by the side of his driver as if

"It's Sledge," said the man with the

frayed cigar. "He gets his little old

rakeoff, too, from jamming sixty people

into a forty passenger car. While he's

running the town this rotten old line

"Mr. Sledge is a good customer of

"There's one thing about Ben Sledge

provement going on," announced the

"Mr. Sledge is the workingman's

Marley sacred to their hatred, the name

of Sledge, who was notorious through-

Meanwhile Sledge, turning to see

than if he had been reading a time-

table. Bert Glider noticed his rude

ness and tried in a mood of intense

the eye of an oyster. Sledge, perfect-

ly contented with the pleasing picture

which sat before him, continued to stare calmly until Molly, discerning

from Bert's countenance that some

thing was wrong, turned to meet the

small gray eyes of Sledge fixed thought-

fully upon her. She wheeled abruptly

"Isn't that the scandalous Sledge?

Her father nodded his head and

"Well, introduce him. I can make

him stop staring, then," she ordered.

"I say, Siedge," called Marley, leaning forward. "This is my daughter,

Sledge tugged at his hat and smiled

"Glad to meet you," he told Molly.

"I didn't know you had such a fine

looking girl, Marley. She's a corker,'

and once more he viewed Miss Molly

with quiet approbation, in which there

was a dawning glimmer of quite un-

"I think so myself," laughed Marley.

"First thing I know she'll be getting

"Sure!" agreed Sledge, contemplat-

The street car shead gave a forward

There arrived on the morning train,

escorted to the platform by a distinct-

ly worshipful porter, a tall, big boned

gentleman in a light gray suit of fine

texture, a plump, careless man to

whom one would instinctively turn for

a tedlously funny story, and a hard

jawed man of a most forbidding ex-

pression, who looked about as commu-

nicative as a cabbage. This gentle-

man loafed about the hotel with his

mouth shut, while the other two

and gathered in the room of the smil-

"Well, Timbers, is it as cheerful as

himself in the most comfortable chair.

"Looks gay and merry to me, Boz-

zam," replied Mr. Timbers, folding his

hands on his fat knee and frowning

intently at a little slip of paper he held

between his thumb and forefinger.

"Sledge is, of course, the whole works."

"Tom Bendix," returned Timbers

promptly, consulting his slip of paper.

right to his office and give him the

"A fluff," returned Timbers con

temptuously. "Because he's the presi-

dent of the street car company he

thinks he invented electricity, and his

noodle is swelled so that it cracks his

"You'd better lead me to this Bendix

person," suggested Bozzam, rising.

Very automatically the silent man

sive in his inertia that he removed to

himself all speculation about any one

"I want to talk electrical transporta

tion with you," began Mr. Bozzan

cheerily as he laid the cards of Mr

Moodson and himself on the desk. "I

and this is Mr. Alvin Moodson of Phil-

straight story."

scalp.

adelphia."

"How about Marley?"

'Come on, Moodson."

who was in his company.

"He sifts everything before it gets to

"What's the approach to Sledge?"

ing tall one in the gray suit.

lurch, and the flamingly indignant

Molly darted into the opening.

"The ugly brute!" she gasped.

ing her earnestly in this new light

she asked, annoyed and still amused.

to her father.

"He can't drive on."

Sledge-like enthusiasm.

"I'd marry her myself."

Molly."

he had been at home dining.

won't have any competition."

Henry Peters.

circle it had left.

friend," he declared.

way of accidental emphasis.

was received with equanimity.

mine," observed the fat butcher.

PROLOGUE.

"A Tale of Red Roses," by George Randolph Chester, is one of that author's best stories. It introduces a typical red blooded boss politician of the type found in many nerican cities and a beautiful girl, with whom the boss is in love. Incidents of political intrigue and high finance are fascinatingly told.

The author relates, as only he can, stirring incidents in ward, city and state politics. In his strenuous, spectacular wooing the politician makes the girl the favorite at a govemor's ball. He has diplomats, artists and notables of every description pay her homage. He lavishes presents on her. He anticipates her every wish. His love is

overpowering, all consuming.
"A Tale of Red Roses" holds the interest of the reader from start to finish. Once begun it must be finished.

CHAPTER I.

The Dawning of a Tender Passion. COAL wagon, naturally choos ing the rush hour for the performance, broke down in front of an extra crowded car, and traffic was promptly knotted for three ocks. A shining big automobile, following up the hill, came so close behind that the glare of the street car one with unpleasant brightness or the occupants—a smiling red cheeked girl at the wheel; by her side a gray vandyked man with sinister lines run-ning sharply downward from his down ed nose; in the tonneau a plainly ssed and modestly pretty black haired girl with large and rather timid ayes and a slender golden haired girl hose chief mission in life, from her expression, would have been taken to

"Hello, Bert!" called the girl at the his acknowledgment of the introduc-The rather large young man in the tion. neatly fitting blue suit who had been jammed against the rail of the rear platform had already begun to worm is way out of the ill humored throng the street car.

"I'll try it," he laughed, "although m't expect to have a button left." The crowd, its clothing still clammy from the recent rain, made way for him reluctantly, even though it needed the space he occupied, for the pompous

oking, vandyked man in the car was Frank Marley, by all odds the most unpopular man in the city. He was president of the street car com-

The young man in the neat blue suit, whose cheeks were flawlessly pink and whose luxuriant black mustache was curied in two amazingly perfect ringlets, picked his way daintily through "Bert, this is the treat I promise

1994," said the girl at the wheel. "Miss Fern Burbank," he guessed. clasping the blond visitor's hand, and at the same time he gave his left hand condescendingly to little Jessie Peters. "Welcome to our muddy city."

"Thank you," smiled the golden haired young lady. "Of course this is handsome Bert Glider."

"Molly's been telling on me," h Hehtly answered as he took the folding seat just behind Mr. Marley, sitting sidewise so that he could address the two girls in the tonneau and still enjey the clean cut profile of Ethelyn arley, known to her intimates as Molly, for no better reason than that It was a handier name.

The lights in the car ahead gaddenly went out, and a groan arose from the miserable passengers on that suffocutvehicle. A roughly breathed man, who had been resting his elbow in the wishbone of gray whiskered little Henry Peters, reached the point of heroic

He cursed the street car company and demanded, "Why don't they put on more cars?"

Little Henry Peters, who admitted he was a stockholder, took the company's part.

The conductor crowded back through the solidly packed aisle and the squirming platform to jerk hopefully at the trolley rope, and little Henry Peters, squeezed between his oppoment and the fat butcher until bones

arose and accompanied Bozzam from could stand no more, popped from between their peripheries like the inside the room with the air of being just as willing to do that as anything else of a grape, landing in the solar plexus of a tired Hibernian, who had endured Just as automatically he followed into the office of Tom Bendix five minutes later and stood silently by, so oppres-

"Get out of my stomach, stockhold-" he gruffly ordered and pushed little Henry's derby tightly down over his ears just as another machine drew out of the fretting rearward line and. stopped by the ragged gutter, rested shreast of Marley's machine. The conductor having restored the lights, the attention of the uncomfortable passen- am Charles W. Bozzam of New York gers was now directed to the newcomer, a heavy jowled man of middle

them to have seats. "I don't know that I care to talk electrical transportation, but I'm will ing to listen," he smiled.

Bendix shook hands noncommittally

with the two gentlemen and invited

"There isn't much to say," Bozzan stated. "We think your city needs new and better street car facilities, and we are here to give them to you if you will let us. The company I propose to form will be bona fide and will be incorporated for a million dollars in regular money. Mr. Moodson will take a quarter of a million of the stock himself. It might be some satisfaction to you to secure a report on Mr. Moodson from Dunn or Bradstreet." Mr. Bendix grinned,

"It sounds like a high grade proposition," he acknowledged. "I'll speak to some friends of mine about it this

When Tom Bendix walked into the Occident saloon he paused a moment at the bar, but even though his wish es were as potent here as those of om nipotence, since he represented the omnipotent Sledge, he had to wait, for both the choice bartenders were in de lighted attendance on a careless fat

"Who's the entertainment committee?" asked Bendix, a trifle sharply. "A total stranger by the name of Timbers," rejoined Phil, vigorously



want to get acquainted with her. ordered Sledge.

mopping up an almost imaginary splash. "He's so full of new ones that every time he opens his mouth he spills a good laugh."

smiled, his tuse becoming still more pointed in the process. "What's his business?" demanded Bendix, who was an earnest collector of definite information.

"Carrying hot ones, as far as I can get it," answered Phil, laughing reminiscently. "Say, this guy tells 'em so fast you can't remember 'em. Blondy just asked him to stop so he could compelled to report off duty. write 'em down. He slipped in a fun-

Bendix walked thoughtfully into the little back room, the bareness of which, kept to its former crudeness by the wish of the boss, was in strange contrast to the elaborately mirrored and mahogany carved Occident. Here, at found the huge and impassive Stedge gazing moodily out the dusty window. while Frank Marley, with a half emptied whisky glass in his hand, sat regarding him with a puzzled expression. Marley turned with relief when he saw Bendix.

"I've just been suggesting that we build the proposed Ridgewood avenue extension out of the company funds. rather than make a new issue of stock," he explained. "By adding slightly to our bonded indebtedness we can do this and keep the additional net earnings among the present stockholders," and he stroked his neatly cropped gray vandyke, with the almost smirking complacency of a man who is sure he is earning a reputation for superior judgment.

Bendix looked at him a moment in aggrieved wonder.

"scouted." Promptly at 11 o'clock they returned from their various directions we thought?" asked the host, settling ingly reminded Marley.

to make the extension from the com-or basket, \$2@\$3. Squash, Hubbard, bbl, \$1.75@\$2.25; Marrow, \$1.75@\$2. nany's earnings is the more legitimate business method. I am not in favor of \$1@\$1.25. the modern practice of watering stock. The earnings, after all, are not increas- box, \$1.50. ed by stock juggling."

Sledge turned ponderously from his inspection of the dingy little areaway as Bendix left the room. the big boy, and you don't need any introductions. The best plan is to go hinted.

is a beauty, isn't she? The boys are crazy about her. It looks like a college convention out at my house all the time."

"I want to get acquainted with her," ordered Sledge, much as if he had been sending the happy word to some rising new politician.

Marley's brow. "That is a matter which is entirely up to Molly," he stated, with a trace of stiffness.

A shade of annoyance passed over

"All right. Put it up to Molly," said Sledge and looked out of the window Marley hesitated and half arose. He

knew that his call was over, and yet he had something else on his mind. (To Be Continued.)

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prevented probable injury to several to a milk wason was grabbed by the steady work. officer and brought to a standstill be-fore the horses reached the crossing where the children were standing. On Saturday noon on State street near Park avenue, when the policeman had just left traffic duty, screams of women attracted his attention and he turned around to see a horse attached to a light delivery wagon be-

yond control of driver. He stepped in-to the street, grabbed the reins, which were held taut by the frightened driver. The driver collapsed and loosened his hold on the horses, which threw Lynch against the horse, painfully straining the muscles of his back. The following day the pain was so aggravated that the officer was

### ny knock or two about the street car N. Y. Wholesale Prices.

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large. Apples-Spitzenberg, bbl. \$2@\$3: DISTRICT OF BRIDGEPORT, ss., Jonathan, \$2@\$4; York Imperial, \$2 @\$3.25; Wealthy \$2@\$3; Winesap, \$2 @\$4.50; Stayman Winesap, \$2@\$3.50; Twenty Ounce, 2@\$2.75; Tallman Sweet, \$2@\$3.25; Black Twig, \$2@ \$3; Greening, \$2@\$3.50; King, \$2@ 3.50; Northern Spy, \$2@\$4; Baldwip, represented intestate—as per said ap-\$2@\$3; Hubbardson, \$2@\$3; Ben Da- plication on file more fully appears, it vis, \$2@\$2.75; Gano, \$2@\$3. Vegetables—Potatoes, Bermuda, No.

"I know," persisted Marley. "But, \$6. Onions, Conn. Valley, yellow, bag, after mature deliberation, it seems that \$2@\$2.50; red. \$1@\$2; white, crate Turnips, rutubaga, bbl, white, bbl,

Hothouse products -- Beet greens, Cucumbers, doz, 50@ 31.12. Dandelion greens, box, \$1.75 Mint, doz bunches, 40@50c. Mushrooms, white, 4-lb basket, \$1.35@ \$1.75; cream, \$1.20@\$1.40; brown, \$1 "Your girl's a peach," he delicately inted.
"Molly?" smiled Marley's nose. "She bunch of 10 stalks, 40c; 24 stalks, a peauty, isn't she? The boys are

Poultry dressed-Turkeys, spring, fair to good, 25@26c; fowls, 60 lbs. to doz, and over, 19c; chickens, fancy, 3 and 4 lbs to pair, 40@42c; squabs, prime, white, 10 lbs. to doz, \$6; 9 lbs. \$5.50; 8 lbs, \$5.25.

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January 25, 1916, A. D. Estate of James V. Hogan, late of Bridgeport in said district deceased. Upon application praying-that administration be granted on said estate

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